

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Director:

The Department of the Air Force has been delegated by the Secretary of Defense to present the views of the Department of Defense on S. J. Res. 96, "To strengthen the foreign relations of the United States by establishing a Commission on International Telecommunications".

There are forwarded four copies of the report on S. J. Res. 96 which the Department of Defense proposes to make to the Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate. In this report the Department of Defense offers no objection to the enactment of S. J. Res. 96. However, Section 10 (b) of the resolution authorizes the Commission which it would establish to secure from any department, agency, or independent instrumentality of the Government any information it deems necessary to carry out its functions. The Department of Defense believes that it is essential that each department, agency, or instrumentality concerned make administrative agreements with this Commission for the purpose of insuring that classified security information will be released only on the authority of the head of such department, agency, or instrumentality. This recommendation is based on the possibility that the Commission might request highly classified and highly sensitive information dealing with intelligence activities, present or proposed military operations, or research and development activities, or other information the release of which, in the opinion of the appropriate department, agency, or instrumentality, would clearly be prejudicial to the public interest.

The enclosed report and this letter have been coordinated among the departments and boards of the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Department of the Air Force requests advice as to whether there is any objection to the submission to the Congress of the enclosed report on S. J. Res. 96.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

JOE W. KELLY
Brigadier General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Enclosure

Honorable Joseph M. Dodge